

the boiled lettuce diet. It is hoped that this diet will find broader use and acceptance and that it will make possible the laboratory rearing of species whose biologies are now incompletely understood.

An extension of this technique might apply to the study of small cryptic terrestrial mollusks. Since it is often stated that many land mollusks are "humus feeders," the boiled leaf technique using leaves from their environment may serve as a short cut to "humus."

If close control of mollusk cultures is required, boiling of vegetation eliminates contaminants such as extraneous fungi, arthropods, mollusks, etc. This method should not be construed as a definitive, or complete, diet for mollusks, but rather as a very useful supplement to the epiphyton normally available, miscellaneous decaying or green plant material and shell building materials such as calcium carbonate, limestone or shell.

### LITERATURE CITED

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1937. (a) Rearing aquatic snails, pp. 523 - 526; (b) Rearing terrestrial snails, pp. 526 - 527. *In: Culture methods for invertebrate animals.* J. G. Needham, ed. Comstock Publ. Co., New York, N. Y.

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### NOTES & NEWS

A. M. U.

### Pacific Division

The Executive Board of the American Malacological Union - Pacific Division will meet at Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California on Thursday, June 20, 1968 at 1:30 p. m. The annual Business Meeting of the AMU-PD will follow immediately at 2:00 p. m. For reasons beyond the control of the elected officers it was impossible to organize any other program for the 1968 conference.

W. S. M.

The first Annual Meeting of the Western Society of Malacologists will be held at the conference grounds at Asilomar State Park, Pacific Grove, California June 19 to 22, 1968. Scientific papers, symposia on related problems, and exhibits will be presented in the various fields related to the study of malacology and invertebrate zoology.

All persons interested in malacology and conchology are cordially invited to attend, and participate in, this historic meeting. Excellent accommodations in varying price ranges (American plan) will be available for those making their reservations early.

For information on the conference or on membership in the Society, please address the Secretary, Mrs. Paul O. Hughes, 12871 Foster Road, Los Alamitos, CA 90720.

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### Invalid Names in Oysters

BY

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Recently 8 new names for species in the family Ostreidae (Mollusca; Bivalvia) were introduced into the literature by GILBERT RANSON (1967. *Les espèces d'huitres vivant actuellement dans le monde, définies par leurs coquilles larvaires ou prodossoconques. Étude des collections de quelques-uns des grands musées d'histoire naturelle.* *Rev. Trav. Inst. Pêches marit.*, 31 (2): 127-199, figs. 1-25; (3): 205-274, figs. 26-55).

Although these so-called new species are accompanied by "illustrations" - line drawings or photomicrographs of prodossoconchs at magnifications of 200 x and above, they are not validly introduced or available since they do not satisfy Article 13 (a) of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1964)' which states:

... a name published after 1930 must be either

(i) accompanied by a statement that purports to give characters differentiating the taxon; or

(ii) accompanied by a definite bibliographic reference to such a statement; or

(iii) proposed expressly as a replacement for a pre-existing available name.

Ranson has not fulfilled any of these criteria. Neither a written description, nor a comparison with related species, nor an indication of type-locality, nor a citation of type material are given. The names, consequently, are not nomenclatorially available, and no zoologist should cite them. Since they are unavailable there is not even any need to place these names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

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## Important Notice!

Because of drastic changes in Postal Regulations, which went into effect on January 7, 1968, we will no longer be able to include in our January issue an envelope as a reminder that dues are payable. Other changes affect the cost of returning and remailing of undelivered copies of the journal. In addition, the mailing rate has been increased and will be increased annually on January 1 each year for the next several years - provided that there is not some extra-ordinary increase made at some other date. Changing the addresses also has recently been increased. After a very careful study of the whole problem, we find that a change of address alone costs us just one cent less than a dollar; return and remailing of copies because of the addressee having moved causes us an expenditure of a minimum of one dollar (depending on the weight of the particular issue and the distance of the original address). Since our charges reflect less than the actual cost of producing the magazine, we cannot any longer absorb the costs for these extraneous services. We are forced to ask that with each change of address our members and subscribers send along one dollar. For re-mailing a returned copy we are asking a reimbursement of \$2.-, a fee which will include the change of address. As we are not charging for the time consumed in rendering the service, and as we are not breaking even on the charges for returning and remailing, we earnestly request that we be informed at least four weeks before the change of address becomes effective. If that is impossible, then we urge that arrangements be made with the local postoffice for forwarding all second class mail - a service which, in view of all other charges, is very economical.

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